



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

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OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

June 28, 2010

Kenneth Gebhardt, Manager
Wallowa Valley Ranger District
88401 Highway 82
Enterprise, Oregon 97828

**Subject: Comments on the Final EIS for Westside Rangeland Analysis Project
EPA Project Number 08-001-AFS**

Dear Mr. Gebhardt:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed **Westside Rangeland Analysis Area (WRAA) Project** on Wallowa Valley Ranger District of Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (WWNF) in Wallowa County, OR. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Clean Air Act § 309 require EPA to review and comment in writing on the environmental impacts associated with all major federal actions.

In our comments on the draft EIS in August 2009, EPA expressed environmental concerns about the project's potential impacts to water quality within impaired streams on the Oregon State's most current 303(d) list and subsequent impacts to aquatic resources therein. We recommended that the FEIS discuss bacteria and nutrient impacts to water quality and measures to reduce their loading in the streams, and describe active restoration programs to protect streams and soils from thermal impacts.

The FEIS was responsive to our concerns on the draft EIS. In particular, we appreciate additional information on consultation with Tribes and other Federal and State agencies; measures to protect resources from grazing impacts; and enhanced monitoring strategies to take corrective actions where other management actions would fail to meet desired conditions. In addition, we are pleased with the modified Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative) and other change to the FEIS based on other agencies' and public's comments. Your responses address our concerns.

If you have questions or you would like to discuss the above comments, please contact Theo Mbabaliye at (206) 553-6322 or me at (206) 553-1601.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine B. Reichgott".

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit